

REMARKS:

The Examiner has noted that the abstract contains less than 50 words. He also has rejected claim 1 and allowed claims 2-23. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the abstract section of the specification and canceled claim 1. Applicant also has amended claim 23 due to a typo. The Examiner's comments and rejections are addressed below:

Specification Amendment

The Examiner stated that the abstract contained less than 50 words. Accordingly, Applicant has amended the abstract by adding additional language to augment the word count to exceed 50 words. The abstract now has 84 words, which also is within the 150 word limit for abstracts. Furthermore, Applicant has not introduced new matter with this amendment.

35 U.S.C. § 102 Rejection

The Examiner rejected claim 1 under 35 U.S.C. § 102, as being anticipated by JP 02-293229 (“Kentaro”). However, the rejection is now moot, in light of Applicant’s cancellation of claim 1. Therefore, Applicant respectfully request withdrawal of this rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

The Examiner has allowed claims 2-23. However, Applicant has amended claim 23 because of a typo by changing the word “method” to “apparatus” to match claim 22, and this amendment does not introduce any new matter. Therefore, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of amended claim 23.

Conclusion

In view of the above considerations, Applicant respectfully request a timely Notice of Allowance in this application. Should the Examiner have any continuing objections or concerns, the Examiner is respectfully asked to contact the undersigned at 415-442-1106 in order to expedite allowance of this case. Authorization is granted to charge any outstanding fees due at this time for the continued prosecution of this matter to Morgan, Lewis & Bockius LLP Deposit Account No. 50-0310 (matter no. 060944-0146).

Respectfully submitted,

Date February 16, 2005


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